

Union Township Environmental Commission

Minutes for May 11, 2010 @ 7:00 PM

Our notice as published in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Express-Times satisfies the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act. This notice is also posted on the Township website, and a copy is filed with the Municipal Clerk.

I. Roll call:

Present: Michele McBride, Sandy Stiger, Chuck Neary, and Bill Harclerode were present. Steve Hurford, John Wingler, Chuck La Tournous, Kathleen Corcoran and Joshua Boyle were not present.

II. Approval of Minutes:

1. Minutes from the April 2010 meeting were moved, and approved by Sandy Stiger and seconded by Michele McBride.

III. Old Business:

1. Trails perimeter trail at Finn Road Park (Michele and Chuck L): The Order of the Arrow Scouting Society wants to assist in the trail project. Receiving donations is an option in regards to purchasing trail markers. The type of trail marker still has to be determined. The road department may be able to provide some woodchips for the trail. Peter Jost submitted the final version of the report to the town council on April 23rd. The final step of the project will be marking the trail.
2. Well Water Testing – There were about the same amount of people that participated in this year's well testing as last year. There were some challenges with this year's testing. Sandy suggested that next year UTEC completely takes over the initiative. A few different days should be designated next year, both during the week and weekend. An article should be put in the newsletter next year describing well testing and what residents should be looking for when it comes to well water quality.
3. Stream Cleanup Sat. April 24 9-11 (SBWA) – Troop 200 had 15 scouts and their families assist in the clean up along with 3 members of UTEC. Michele has "No Dumping" signs, which were posted at the cleanup sites with the permission of the state parks department, and will provide them to other projects if requested.
4. Recycling – Bill has created a recycling list that contains items that can be recycled within the township or county.

IV. Correspondence:

1. Received a letter from town planner in regards to summary of Union Station Association application review. Highlands's applicability determination.

2. Bill sent letter to DEP in regards to the NJ Noise Control Council. The letter was defending the group since they are volunteers and have been helpful to the township. A response was sent back from the commissioner mentioning that the group was reviewed as per the Governors management plan. The group will be preserved moving forward.
3. Michele received a letter from Melissa Almendinger about a workshop that will be taking place on May 26th on emerging invasive species. Michele plans on attending the workshop and by doing so she will be trained in invasive species identification. UTEC has an option to become a partner of the Invasive Species Upper Raritan Watershed Association. It is a good opportunity for UTEC to gain more knowledge and assist with the organizations invasive species inventory. There is no cost or real obligation for UTEC. Motion to become a member was approved.
4. The road crew is down a person due to a shoulder injury. They are looking for someone to mow 2 days a week, for a total of 16 hours a week. The compensation for the position is \$10/hr and for the months of May-October.

VI. Chair's Report

1. Bill found a website that has "No Idling" signs for sale. Inquires to local businesses should be made to determine if they will allow these signs to be put up. It will then be determined if UTEC will purchase signs.
2. Bill wrote a letter on behalf of UTEC in regards to the Diesel Truck Idle extension. Michele made a motion to approve the letter and Chuck N seconded the motion.
3. The road crew did not cut trees down along Charlestown Road, it was the county. They did this for flood control and the trees will be replaced.
4. During the stream clean up construction debris was found in the dog training parking lot of the Wildlife Management Area. The county was supposed to remove it, but the debris is still there. Bill will follow up.

VII. Reports of Subcommittees

1. Open Space (Sandy Stiger, Chuck Neary): No new news. Hoffman Park is next on the agenda.
2. Property Stewardship (Michele McBride)
 - I. Hoffman Park- There will be an Open House on the 15th and 19th. Advertisements will be in the Courier News and Democrat. Bill suggested looking towards other papers for advertising as well. A cleanup of the property by UTEC, UTC, and Stewardship volunteers will be scheduled prior to the Open House.
 - II. Milligan Farms- Plan for the auction to take place in the fall. There is work that is needed on the property prior to the auction. Some work may be able to be completed by volunteers and other work needs to be completed by professionals.
3. Planning Board Report – The board approved a variance for Bethlehem Presbyterian Church. It pertains to allowing a non-profit organization, the

YMCA in this case to use the facility to provide limited day care. The board also approved a variance to allow single family homes to be built along Charlestown Road. There also will be a joint meeting with the town committee and the planning board in regards to COAH requirements.

4. Transportation (Bill Harclerode)

I. Road Noise. The Road Noise Group met with Senator Doherty and Assemblyman Peterson to discuss enforcement and increased fines for trucks with illegal mufflers. They both support this initiative. Obstacles are the NJ Motor Truck Association lobby which donates money to politicians who support their initiatives, Transportation Committee where the bills are being held up, and lack of priority for quality of life issues (vs public safety) at the legislative and enforcement levels. We plan to meet with Assemblyman DiMeio and start another, statewide, letter writing campaign to get the bills out of committee.

5. Communication / Education (Michelle Mc Bride, Chuck La Tournous)

I. Michele would like to receive more feedback on the newsletters. Ella mentioned many people have been stopping in to obtain copies of the newsletter when they should have received them in the mail. The next newsletter should be cut down in size in order to cut costs down. Moving forward Chuck L may take over many of the newsletter responsibilities.

6. Sidney Brook Project 319h Grant (Chuck Neary, Bill Harclerode)

I. Although the project is still on schedule, at DEP's request we submitted no-cost time extension. Princeton Hydro has not completed the report. There is a buffer restoration project proposed at Milligan Farms along the brook. This work may take place this fall or the spring of 2011.

7. UTC Highlands Committee (Kathy Corcoran, Bill Harclerode)

I. This team is now reviewing COAH plans. COAH requirements are planned to be met largely by the Milligan Farms project which consists of rental senior and family housing. Several meetings are scheduled over the next month culminating with a presentation and request for vote at the June 2 Town Committee meeting.

8. Sustainable NJ Certification (C. La Tournous)

I. No new news. Meeting to soon follow.

9. Conservation Easement Database (John, Chuck N.)

I. Michele would like to assist with the easement database for her certification project. The requirements for the Highlands Act should be reviewed and the database project will then coincide with that.

Hearing of Citizens

None

Adjournment

It was moved, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting minutes by: Joshua Boyle